

**REMARKS**

In the March 17, 2006 Office Action, all of the claims stand rejected in view of prior art. No other objections or rejections were made in the Office Action.

***Status of Claims and Amendments***

In response to the March 17, 2006 Office Action, Applicant has amended the claims as indicated above. Thus, claims 1-5 and 7 are pending, with claims 1 and 5 being the only independent claims. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested in view of above amendments and the following comments.

***Information Disclosure Statement***

On March 7, 2006, Applicant submitted an IDS for consideration. Acknowledgement of the IDS was not contained in the March 17, 2006 Office Action. Applicant respectfully requests a copy of an initialed and signed PTO-1449 for the March 7, 2006 IDS.

***Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102***

In paragraphs 2, 5, 6 and 8 of the Office Action, claims 1-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,626,002 (Notohara et al.), U.S. Patent No. 3,840,799 (Macko et al.), U.S. Patent No. 5,654,882 (Kanazawa et al.) and U.S. Patent No. 5,446,646 (Miyazaki). In response, Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 5 to clearly define the present invention over the prior art of record.

In particular, independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, a converter that includes a pair of first diodes that are connected in forward series and a switch circuit connected between the first diodes. The switch circuit has a switching device and a pair of second diodes connected in reverse series that are connected in parallel to the switching device. A point between the second diodes is configured to receive AC power.

Independent claim 5 recites, *inter alia*, a converter that includes two pairs of serially connected diodes, and a diode of each pair being connected in reverse parallel to a switching

device to form a switch circuit. Each of the switch circuits is free from a connection in series with any other switch circuit. The switch circuits are connected in parallel to each other

This structure is *not* disclosed or suggested by Notohara et al, Macko et al, Kanazawa et al and Miyazaki or any other prior art of record. It is well settled under U.S. patent law that for a reference to anticipate a claim, the reference must disclose each and every element of the claim within the reference.

Notohara et al discloses a compressor driving unit with a converter circuit 2 in Figure

1. The converter circuit 2 does not have a pair of first diodes connected in forward series and a switch circuit between the first diodes. Macko et al discloses a semiconverter 43 in Figure 3. The semiconverter 43 does not have a pair of first diodes connected in forward series and a switch circuit between the first diodes. Kanazawa et al discloses a three phase rectifier 9 and a chopper circuit 10 in Figure 3. The three phase rectifier 9 and the chopper circuit 10 do not have a pair of first diodes that are connected in forward series and a switch circuit connected between the first diodes. Furthermore, the phase rectifier 9 and the chopper circuit 10 do not have a switching device and a pair of second diodes connected in reverse series that are connected in parallel to the switching device. Miyazaki discloses a PWM converter 1 in Figures 1 and 2. The PWM converter 1 does not include a pair of first diodes that are connected in forward series and a switch circuit connected between the first diodes. Furthermore, the PWM converter 1 does not include two pairs of serially connected diodes, and a diode of each pair being connected in reverse parallel to a switching device to form a switch circuit; each of the switch circuits is free from a connection in series with any other switch circuit. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1 and 5, as now amended, are not anticipated by the prior art of record. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Moreover, Applicant believes that dependent claims 2-4 and 7 are also allowable over the prior art of record in that they depend from independent claim 1 or 5, and therefore are allowable for the reasons stated above. Also, the dependent claims are further allowable because they include additional limitations. Thus, Applicant believes that since the prior art of record does not anticipate independent claim 1 or 5, neither does the prior art anticipate the dependent claims.

Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections.

***Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103***

In paragraphs 4, 7 and 9 of the Office Action, claims 2, 3 and 8-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Notohara et al, Kanazawa et al. and Miyazaki.

Claims 8-10 have been cancelled by this amendment. Applicant believes that dependent claims 2 and 3 are allowable over the prior art of record in that they depend from independent claim 1, and therefore are allowable for the reasons stated above. Also, the dependent claims are further allowable because they include additional limitations. Thus, Applicant believes that since the prior art of record does not disclose or suggest the invention as set forth in independent claim 1, the prior art of record also fails to disclose or suggest the inventions as set forth in the dependent claims.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn in view of the above comments and amendments.

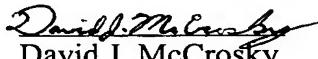
***Prior Art Citation***

In the Office Action, additional prior art references were made of record. Applicant believes that these references do not render the claimed invention obvious.

***Conclusion***

In view of the foregoing amendment and comments, Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 1-5 and 7 are now in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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